



Strasbourg – 24-25 October 2019

Themes of the Conference

➤ **“Our Common European Home”: the next 70 years**

70th anniversary – experience and expectations for the future of national parliaments

2019 will mark the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe. The proposed debate should focus on European construction, 70 years after the foundation of the Council of Europe and 30 years after the fall of the Berlin wall. Speakers could discuss, on the one hand, our “European ideal” (is the common European Home still what we are aiming towards?) and on the other hand our “Common Values” (what is the role of national parliaments as guarantors of our values through the implementation of Council of Europe standards?).

➤ **Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals: contribution by Parliaments**

On 25 September 2015 the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were adopted. The 17 goals and 169 targets, to which all member States of the United Nations have committed themselves, constitute the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Several of the goals are within the scope of the Council of Europe’s work. This is especially true for the goal on peace, justice and strong institutions, as well as the goals on education, gender equality, climate change and ending poverty.

As stated in the Preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, “All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan.” Without doubt, national parliaments have an important role to play in meeting the SDGs by ensuring they are put on the agenda in their countries and by exerting pressure on their governments to follow up on their commitments.

➤ **What role can national Parliaments play in combating the increasing level of harassment and hate speech towards female politicians and parliamentarians?**

Harassment and hate speech towards female politicians and parliamentarians is certainly not a new phenomenon, but it has gained increasing attention in recent years, and women politicians and parliamentarians are increasingly speaking up about their own experiences.

The action to be taken to reach a harassment-free parliament and environment in which women are fully empowered to participate does not require major investment. It requires clear political commitment at the highest political level, and especially from the Speakers of the Parliament, and a change of mind-set.